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On *Hypnogyra laevisissima* (REITTER, 1898) **(Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Staphylininae: Xantholinini)**

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Abstract: Based on a revision of types and additional material, *Hypnogyra laevisissima* (REITTER, 1898), a name recently placed in synonymy with the widespread *H. angularis* (GANGLBAUER, 1895), is revalidated. The external and male sexual characters are illustrated and compared with those of *H. angularis*. The known distribution of *H. laevisissima*, which is confined to East Azerbaijan and North Iran, is mapped.

Key words: Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Staphylininae, Xantholinini, *Hypnogyra*, taxonomy, revalidation, new records, distribution map.

Introduction

Xantholinus laevisimus was described by REITTER (1898) based on several syntypes ("in einigen Exemplaren") from "Talysch-Gebirge" in Azerbaijan. The species has had a remarkably volatile taxonomic and systematic history. REITTER (1908) placed *Xantholinus tenuipunctus* FAUVEL, 1900 in synonymy with *X. laevisimus*. COIFFAIT (1972) examined "le type ♂ et un paratype ♀", provided an illustration of the aedeagus, and correctly moved the species to the genus *Phalacrolinus* COIFFAIT, 1972 (today a junior synonym of *Hypnogyra* CASEY, 1906). Subsequently, BORDONI (1975) erroneously assigned the species to *Megalinus* MULSANT & REY, 1877, at that time a subgenus of *Xantholinus* DEJEAN, 1821, without considering the previous placement in *Phalacrolinus*. Fifteen years later, BORDONI (1999) designated a lectotype, confirmed the synonymy with *Xantholinus tenuipunctus*, and retained the species in *Megalinus*, which by then had been elevated to generic rank. In his world catalogue, HERMAN (2001) listed *X. laevisimus* in *Megalinus* and reported it also from Iran. Eventually, BORDONI (2008) moved the species to *Hypnogyra*, illustrated the aedeagus, and provided an additional record from Iran. When addressing the species again very recently, BORDONI (2017) stated that "still now the species... is placed in *Megalinus*", evidently unaware of his generic assignment nine years earlier, which had also been adopted in the Palaearctic Catalogue (SCHÜLKE & SMETANA 2015), assigned it to *Hypnogyra* again, and placed *H. laevisissima* in synonymy with the widespread *H. angularis* (GANGLBAUER, 1895).

The type material of *Xantholinus laevisimus* was examined approximately six years ago, together with material of other Staphylinidae loaned from the Hungarian Natural History Museum in Budapest. A revision of these types and of additional material revealed that they are not conspecific with *H. angularis*, but represent a distinct species, and that consequently the recently proposed synonymy by BORDONI (2017) was unjustified.

Material and methods

The material treated in this study is deposited in the following collections:

HNHM Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest (Gy. Makranczy)

cAss..... author's private collection

The morphological studies were conducted using a Stemi SV 11 microscope (Zeiss), a Discovery V12 microscope (Zeiss), and a Jenalab compound microscope (Carl Zeiss Jena). The images were created using a digital camera (Nikon Coolpix 995), AxioCam ERc 5s, and Picolay software. The map was created using MapCreator 2.0 (primap) software.

The "parameral" side of the aedeagus (i.e., the side where the sperm duct enters) is referred to as the ventral, the opposite side as the dorsal aspect. In order to assess the internal structures of the aedeagus, the latter was dissected and the internal structures were squeezed ("squeeze preparation").

Hypnogyra laevissima (REITTER, 1898), revalidated (Figs 1-4, Map 1)

Xantholinus laevissimus REITTER, 1898: 116.

Xantholinus (*Metacyclinus*) *laevissimus*: REITTER (1908).

Xantholinus tenuipunctus FAUVEL, 1900: 229; synonymy by REITTER (1908).

Phalacrolinus laevissimus: COIFFAIT (1972).

Xantholinus (*Megalinus*) *laevissimus*: BORDONI (1975).

Megalinus laevissimus: BORDONI (1999).

Megalinus laevissimus: HERMAN (2001).

Hypnogyra laevissima: BORDONI (2008).

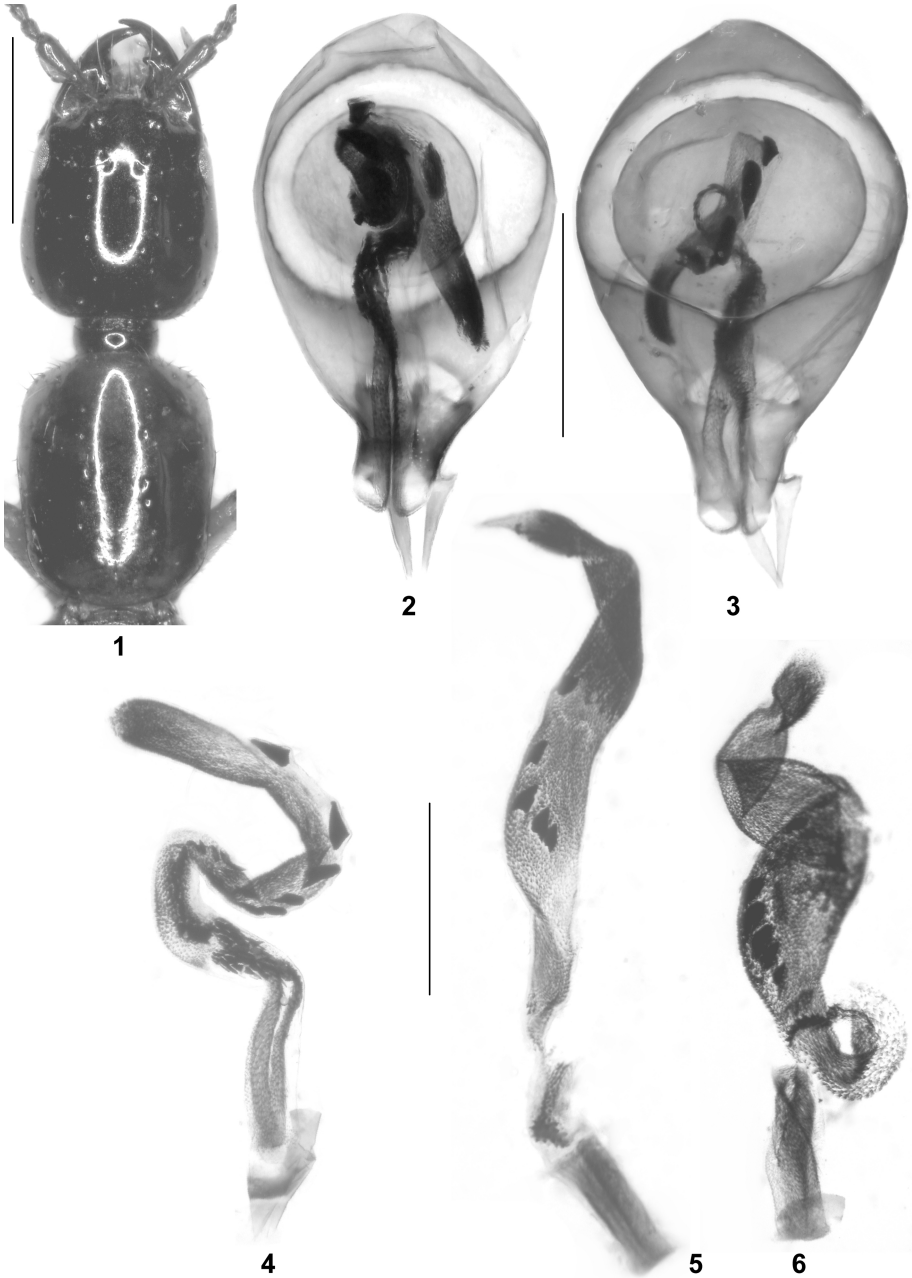
Hypnogyra laevissima: SCHÜLKE & SMETANA (2015).

Synonym of *Hypnogyra angularis* (GANGLBAUER, 1895): BORDONI (2017).

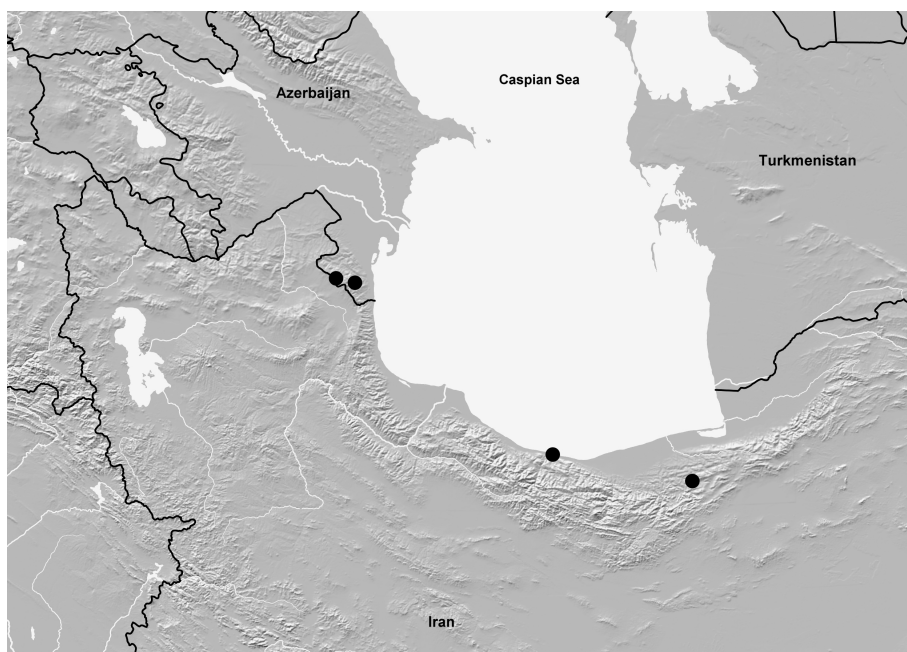
Type material examined: Lectotype ♂ [dissected prior to present study; aedeagus damaged and malformed]: "Kasp. Meer-Geb., Talysch, 1897 Korb / coll. Reitter / *X. laevissimus* m. 1898 / Holotypus *Xantholinus laevissimus* Reitter 1898 [curator label] / *Xantholinus* (*Megalinus*) *laevissimus* Reit. sensu meo, Det. A. Bordini 1972 / *Hypnogyra laevissima* (Rtt.), Bordini det. 2007 / *Hypnogyra laevissima* Reitter, det. V. Assing 2018" (HNHM). Paralectotype ♀: "Caspi.-M.-Gebiet, Hamarat [= Gamarat; 38°39'N, 48°35'E], Leder (Reitter) / coll. Reitter / Paratypus *Xantholinus laevissimus* Reitter 1898 [curator label] / *Hypnogyra laevissima* (Rtt.), Bordini det. 2007 / *Hypnogyra laevissima* Reitter, det. V. Assing 2018" (HNHM).

Additional material examined: Iran: 1♂, Mazandaran, Nowshahr [36°39'N, 51°30'E], VII-IX.1961, leg. J. Klapperich (HNHM); 1♂, Mazandaran, Haft Khal Forest Station, 36°18'N, 53°31'E, 1840 m, flight interception trap, 20.VII.2017, leg. Barimani (cAss).

Comment: *Hypnogyra laevissima* undoubtedly represents a distinct species distinguished from the widespread *H. angularis* by both external and the male sexual characters, particularly by the coloration, the absence of microsculpture on the head and the pronotum (Fig. 1), the number of punctures of the dorsal series of the pronotum, and the internal structures of the aedeagus. In *H. laevissima*, the pronotum is at least partly (anterior and antero-lateral portions, posterior margin) reddish and the elytra are infusate in the middle and laterally. The dorsal series are each composed of usually 1+6 or 1+7 punctures. The internal structures of the aedeagus (Figs 2-4) are less strongly sclerotized, more slender, and the sclerotized spines are more numerous and larger in relation to the internal tube. In *H. angularis*, on the other hand, the head and pronotum have shallow, but distinct microsculpture, the pronotum is uniformly blackish, the elytra are uniformly



Figs 1-6: *Hypnogyra laevis* (1-4) and *H. angularis* (5-6): (1) head and pronotum; (2-3) aedeagus; (4-6) internal structures of aedeagus in squeeze preparation. Scale bars: 1: 1.0 mm; 2-6: 0.5 mm.



Map 1: Known distribution of *Hypnogyra laevissima*.

yellowish to reddish, the dorsal series of the pronotum are each composed of usually 1+9 or 1+10 punctures, and the internal sclerotized spines of the aedeagus are less numerous and smaller in relation to the internal tube (Figs 5-6). For illustrations of the habitus and the aedeagus in situ of *H. angularis* see ASSING (2012).

The currently known distribution of *H. laevissima* is confined to Azerbaijan and North Iran (Map 1).

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Zusammenfassung

Auf der Grundlage einer Revision von Typen und weiterem Material wird *Hypnogyra laevissima* (REITTER, 1898) revalidiert. Der Name wurde erst kürzlich mit *H. angularis* (GANGLBAUER, 1895) synonymisiert. Äußere Merkmale und der Aedoeagus werden abgebildet und mit denen von *H. angularis* verglichen. Die derzeit bekannte Verbreitung von *H. laevissima*, die sich auf den Osten Azerbaijans und den Norden Irans beschränkt, wird anhand einer Karte illustriert.

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